



SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN



On 7-31-03 an independent contractor employee was seriously injured while working on the surface area of an underground mine. The victim was injured while attempting to connect a lowboy trailer to a tractor after unloading an excavator at the mine site. The victim had attached the excavator to the lowboy trailer using a chain and was attempting to walk away when another contract employee, operating the excavator, moved the trailer. The lowboy trailer struck both of the victim's lower legs just above the ankles causing severe injuries to both legs. The victim was treated at the scene by an emergency medical technician and transported to a local hospital by ambulance. The victim was then flown by Med Flight to a trauma center where he underwent surgery on both legs. The investigation is ongoing and the extent of the victim's injuries is not known at this time.

The power take off on the tractor was found to be inoperative making it necessary to use the excavator to align the lowboy trailer with the connection point on the tractor.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Make sure all persons are well clear before moving any equipment
- Establish and use good communications when moving any heavy equipment
- Make sure all contract employees receive proper hazard training before entering mine property
- Maintain all equipment in proper operating condition
- All persons who operate equipment must receive proper task training
- Pre-operational checks should be conducted on all mobile equipment